

Town of Sheffield Historical Commission Meeting

July 30, 2013

Present: Dennis Sears, Chair; Patricia Elsbach, Michael King, Catherine Miller, Kathy Orlando, Jeffrey Waingrow

Others: David West

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm by the Chair. On a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to accept the minutes of the meeting of July 9, 2013 as amended. The third paragraph was amended to read, "Dennis Sears and Michael King reported that they had reviewed progress and process for a proposed demolition delay by-law with the Town Administrator."

Dennis Sears next indicated that there may be a special Town Meeting sometime in the next several weeks. He asked the Commission its thoughts on moving forward with the proposed by-law at that time. On a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to seek input from the citizens before moving forward in a Town Meeting. (7-0-0)

The Commission agreed that the draft of 07.09.13 was in order. On a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to forward that draft to the Town Administrator with a request that it be reviewed by Town Counsel at its earliest convenience. (7-0-0)

The Commission reaffirmed the decision made at the July 9th meeting regarding educating various Boards and the public about the draft by-law. Jeffrey Waingrow and Catherine Miller will write an article for the September-October issue of the "Sheffield Times". This will be an overview of the concept of such a by-law, along with an outline of the positive impact of such for the community.

Michael King shared materials he had researched about the economic benefits of historic preservation. Some of this material will be incorporated into the article that Waingrow and Miller write.

Dennis Sears shared information he had gleaned from Chris Skelley with respect to area communities that have been successful in implementing demolition delay by-laws in the last two years. Dennis will contact North Adams; Michael will contact Huntington and Pat will contact Hatfield. The purpose of these discussions will be to learn about the aspects of the process that made passage successful.

It was agreed that meetings with the Selectboard, Planning Board and Building Inspector would be delayed until counsel has reviewed the draft by-law.

The next meeting of the Commission will be at 5:30 pm on Tuesday, September 3.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Catherine B. Miller, Clerk